

Avebury Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Avebury Parish Council held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 at the Social Centre, Avebury SN8 1RF.

In these minutes AGAR stands for Annual Governance and Accountability Return, APC for Avebury Parish Council, ASOP for Avebury Solstice Operational Planning, ASSC for Avebury Sports and Social Club, ASSF for Avebury Sacred Sites Forum, AWHS for Avebury World Heritage Site, CATG for Community Area Transport Group, FB for Facebook, MAB for Marlborough Area Boards, NT for the National Trust, NWPW for North Wiltshire Path Wardens, PC for Parish Council, RoW for Rights of Way, SID for Speed Indicator Device, TTRO for Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, UKN for Upper Kennet News, WALC for Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, WC for Wiltshire Council and WHS for World Heritage Site.

Present: Mr Stephen Stacey (Chair), Dr Mike Bedford (Vice-Chair), Mr Ben Butler, Mr Mike Daniel and Mrs Lynzey Paradise.

In attendance: Miss Liz Moore (Clerk): online

Time started: 19:33

1. **Public question time:** there were two members of the public present for part of the meeting: Mr Nick Johnson (applicant for Listed Building Consent and Householder Planning Permission under item 7a) and Mr Roger Scully (Managing Partner, Absolute Architecture).
2. **Apologies:** Councillors Maggie Lewis (Vice-Chair), Donna Byatt and Zandria Service. Jane Davies (Wiltshire Councillor) and Eva Stützenberger (NT) had also given their apologies.
3. **Declarations of interest:** none declared.
4. **Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 1 June 2021: it was resolved** to accept the minutes as a proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a. **Min ref. 9c Slow moving vehicles exiting and entering Nash Lane:** the Chairman reported that two Junction CE Certified RA2 750mm Triangle Signs had been installed on the A4361 at Nash Lane. He expressed gratitude on behalf of APC for the support received from Beckhampton Stables for part funding and helping to install them.
6. **Membership:**
 - a. **Notice of vacancy published by WC:** the Clerk reported that if by 1 July 2021 (14 days after the date of WC's notice) there had been a request for an election made in writing to the Returning Officer by TEN electors from the Parish of

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Avebury, an election would be held to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor, otherwise the seat would be filled by co-option.

- b. **To co-opt a new member to the PC:** the Clerk explained that WC had not yet notified the PC as to whether the seat could be filled by co-option. It was noted that there had been one of expression of interest in the process and another in the vacancy but the latter had withdrawn their interest. It was decided to wait until the next PC meeting in the autumn to fill the seat by co-option. In the meantime, the vacancy would be advertised in UKN and members were encouraged to communicate directly with residents to encourage them to join the team.
- c. **To nominate a second Vice-Chair to the PC: it was resolved** that Dr Bedford be appointed as second Vice-Chair. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Daniel and all agreed.

7. Planning applications:

- a. Listed Building Consent and Householder Planning Permission for first floor extension over existing workshop building including ground floor alterations and refurbishment of outside swimming pool area. Alterations to wood shed roof and introduction of new external walls and doors at **Truslowe Manor** Bray Street Avebury Marlborough SN8 1RB. Ref: PL/2021/05728 and PL/2021/04277 respectively. The Chairman welcomed the applicant Mr Nick Johnson and the architect Mr Roger Scully to the meeting for a second time. Plans were tabled and the architect explained that the intention was to create a first floor extension over the top of an existing workshop building in order to add two further bedrooms to the existing four bedroom property. His client was also looking to achieve a new pool house with an artist's studio in the workshop below. In addition, the applicant wished to fix proper doors and shutters to an open shed and modify the roof from flat to hip by raising the eaves. Members noted that the outside swimming pool would also be sympathetically refurbished. Several questions were raised by members and the following points emerged:
 - The increase in ridge height was about 1.5 metres and would run in line with the existing house.
 - The site was private and secluded. The additions were largely obscured from public view via hedging and the only view of the property at ground level was through the main gates.
 - New roofing materials would be the same as the existing house.
 - There would be no loss of historic fabric and neither would there be a change in architectural style or footprint.
 - The new gable wall would have an end window that currently overlooks open fields, and in between that there is a 12 foot hedge where the land rises to meet it.
 - Transport of building materials to site would be carefully managed and a management plan put in place to oversee the work.

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After considerable discussion, **it was decided neither to approve nor to oppose the application.** Cllr Butler made it clear that he wished to abstain from any vote that might be taken. Members were unhappy about the increase in mass and (especially) height and felt that to approve might be taken as a precedent by other applicants in that very sensitive part of the parish. Also, the PC might appear inconsistent with past decisions if it were to approve the ridge line. At the same time it was clear that the application proposed an addition that fitted stylistically with the 1986 extension, was in proportion with the existing property and was at least partly hidden from most lines of sight, even in winter.

- b. Full variation of a Club Premises Certificate at **Avebury Sport and Social Club**, Avebury and District Club, Beckhampton Road, Avebury, Marlborough, SN8 1RD. Application for the following: a change of plan and extending the current licensable area. The addition of: Live Music; Recorded Music; Performance of Dance - (indoors 20:00hrs – 23:59hrs); Outdoors 20:00hrs – 23:00hrs Thursday – Saturday.

It was resolved to support the application for a full variation of a Club Premises Certificate at ASSC. Proposed by Cllr Bedford, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.

8. **National Trust Update:** NT members of staff were unable to attend the meeting that night but an update had been submitted for inclusion in the minutes of the PC meeting. See appendix 1 for NT update previously circulated to members.
9. **Review of Summer Solstice 2021:**
 - a. The Chairman explained that there had been two categories of event **1**. The usual celebration of Solstice in the village which had been understated and muted with no complaints regarding the permit scheme **2**. A free rave on the Ridgeway consisting of about 400 vehicles and 1000 people in attendance. The result was that **significant damage had been done to the Ridgeway and AVE5** including damage to crops, NT property and the scheduled monument. There had been complaints from outside the Parish about the number of vehicles left along the A4, Gunsite Lane and village roads into East Kennet and West Overton. In discussion it was felt that the Police had been caught off guard; a flyer advertising a free rave on the Ridgeway with guest musicians had been found at Stonehenge. It was reported that six vehicles parking between cones on the A4 had quickly spiralled to about 100. Members agreed that in previous Solstice years it was usual for vehicles to be dotted in and around Avebury but that had not happened this year. The Chairman reported that a letter had been swiftly penned by the Chairs of KV PC and APC and emailed to Cllr Richard Clewer (Leader, WC) to notify him about the conditions on the Ridgeway and the impending disaster (see appendix 2). He informed members that Cllr Clewer has asked WC colleagues to work out a better strategy for next year. No doubt the

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Police would be in contact with WC about their bill and the extra costs involved in having officers working overtime. In further discussion, it was noted that the current TTRO on the Ridgeway only applied from AVE5 and that left open a section from the Overton Hill car park to AVE5 for vehicles to access. Members felt that an obvious solution would be to install and lock a gate on Green Street and lock the existing gate on Overton Hill, implementing a TTRO. Concern was expressed about the next bank holiday weekend falling in August and it was agreed that WC should be forewarned.

- b. In discussion, it was agreed that the Heras fencing had been successful at the nursery site by stopping vehicles and people from camping near residents. **It was resolved** to make a donation of £100 to Jeremy Sumbler for providing free use of his Heras fencing at nursery site. Thanks were also expressed to Cllr Butler for erecting and dismantling the fencing at no cost to the Parish. Proposed by Cllr Daniel, seconded by Cllr Paradise and carried unanimously.

It was noted that the ASOP wash up meeting involving all stakeholders was due to take place on 15 July.

10. Project updates:

- a. **Petition to Wiltshire Council (40mph on A4361):** the Chairman reported that Ben Fielding (Democratic Services Officer, WC) had responded to say that a further reduction in speed limit would be considered only if a speed assessment showed that it was necessary. Members concluded that the petition to lower the speed limit had had no visible impact.
- b. **Public Consultation on the proposed traffic regulation orders for reducing the speed to 50 mph on parts of the A4 and A4361 to be published on 8 July:** the Chairman encouraged members and the community to write in to propose a 40 mph limit as there had been a recent fatality on the A4361. He additionally reported that Martin Cook had advised that resurfacing of the A4361, previously due in 2021, had been rescheduled for 2025/26 but that he hoped to arrange for WC's contractor to repair the delaminated parts of the A4361 over the summer.
- c. **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) for A4361:** Cllr Daniel explained that there was an additional cost to the project for installing the sockets in concrete and that he was in the process of obtaining three quotations from local building firms. He said that the installation cost was likely to be <£2,000 for both sockets to be installed at the south and north end of the Village. The Clerk confirmed that the EMF for provision of future Transport Group projects could be used to fund the work. The Chairman reported that Briony Clifton (NT Assistant Archaeologist, Stonehenge and Avebury WHS) was 95% certain that Scheduled Monument consent would not be required. Cllr Daniel added that he was due to take delivery of the SIDs that Wednesday.
- d. **Avebury Chapel:** the Chairman reported that there was a **meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 20 July at the Chapel** for interested parties to see the inside of the Chapel and brainstorm ideas for its use as an exhibition space. He said that he

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had received 9 or 10 expressions of interest but was still waiting for a response from several local organisations.

- e. **Play Area:** Cllr Paradise reported that some of the suppliers she had contacted were not taking on any new customers due to timber shortages and that she would have more time over the summer to progress the project. The Clerk said that she had emailed members the project costs including case study and photographs for the Playground installations at Mildenhall and Manton respectively. It was noted that the new Play Area at Manton had been installed by Marlborough Town Council; information on the project had been emailed to members that day.

11. Reports by Parish Council representatives:

- a. **North Wiltshire Path Wardens:** the Chairman explained that the NWPW consisted of a group of volunteers from Avebury, Kennet Valley, Calne and other parishes in North Wiltshire, who were working on a project to audit the condition of rights of way and looking into how they could maintain and repair them, hopefully using WC equipment. An online meeting with Cllr Dr Mark McClelland (Highways) was planned for 13 July and NWPW would like to use the Social Centre on 22 July for a meeting.
 - i. **It was resolved** to pay <£8 to book the Social Centre for the next NWPW meeting. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.
- b. **WHS Steering Committee Meeting:** it was noted that the meeting had been postponed until September. Concern was expressed that, should the Stonehenge tunnel go ahead in its current form, it looked highly likely that Avebury would be placed on the UNESCO endangered list, which would diminish its status as a WHS. The judge's ruling on an action challenging the process by which the Secretary of State for Transport had decided not to follow his own experts' advice not to proceed with the proposed tunnel was due before September.
- c. **ASSF and Solstice Debrief:** Cllr Service would be asked to attend the next meeting 2-3:30pm on 15 July at the Manor Tea Room as Cllr Lewis had advised that she would be unable to do so.

12. Local Issues:

- a. **Cleaning of the BT 'phone box in West Kennett:** the Clerk said that she would email BT to request that they clean the glass in the red 'phone box.
- b. **Flooding in Green Street:** the Chairman reported that the leaking water meter was being fixed that week and that a pipe was being replaced at the end of July.
- c. **Railings for steps opposite the Waggon & Horses PH:** in discussion it was agreed that the cost for new railings (in the region of £1,500 fully installed) outweighed the need and that the PC could not endorse anyone else trying to fix a handrail to the concrete steps, which it seemed were owned by the Crown.

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- d. **Request for a defibrillator for Beckhampton:** it was noted that the community was currently fundraising for a defibrillator. Members agreed that they would be willing to look into purchasing a fourth defibrillator in line with the expiry of the PC's current defibrillator rental agreement, which was next year.
 - e. **Beckhampton Stables** has installed a sign on their land to ask people not to use or limit their use of a permissive pathway that runs on the edge of a field on which they exercise their horses. The recently designated King Alfred Cycle Path has generated considerable two-wheeler traffic as it's been attracting too many people.
13. **Parish Steward Priority Sheet:** general strimming of footpaths had been carried out by the Parish Steward. There were no other requests for priority work other than some general strimming adjacent to Truslowe Manor and the ditch, and the Chairman said that he would talk to Parish Steward to confirm ownership and responsibility.
14. **Communications:** the Clerk reported that PC Headlines had been submitted to the June 2021 Edition of UKN with thanks to the Chairman for writing the summary.
15. **Correspondence:** the Clerk reported:
 - a. **Victim Support Leaflet:** received and published on PC website.
 - b. **Healthwatch Wiltshire:** was seeking feedback from people who had used the GWH's emergency department and inpatient ward.
16. **Finance and admin:**
 - a. **Accounts for the year ended March 2021:** the Clerk reported that the AGAR and notice of the period for exercise of public rights had been published on the PC website plus community notice board on 14 June 2021.
 - b. **Training:**
 - i. **Councillor fundamentals training via WALC:** it was noted that no one had booked on the online training to date.
 - ii. **Virtual Conferences being run by IGPP (Institute of Government and Public Policy):** members had been offered a discounted rate of £99 + VAT and the choice to watch the event back as many times for up to 30 people. It was agreed that the Clerk should email a link to all the events and members would consider the offer at their next meeting in September.
 - c. **Cheques for ratification:** the Clerk reported that the following cheques had been raised in between meetings (11 June 2021). **It was resolved** to approve the payments. Proposed by Cllr Dr Bedford, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.

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- i. Safety Signs and Notices Ltd: two Junction CE Certified RA2 750mm Triangle Signs (including VAT) £205.18
 - ii. South Western Ambulance Service: defibrillator support package (including VAT) £540.00
- d. **Cheques for payment: it was resolved** to approve the following cheque payments. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.
- i. Mr M. Nobbs (Kennet Fencing): installation of wooden bench and repair to existing chain link fence at Play Area £380.00
 - ii. NAL Ltd: two retention sockets for the SID (including VAT) £300.74
 - iii. Kennet Print Ltd: A5 parking permits x190, plus slips, and a second run of 100 permits (including VAT) £78.00
 - iv. Miss E. Moore: overtime and expenses 22 May – 21 June 2021 £160.52

17. **Date of next meeting:** 7:30pm on Tuesday 7 September 2021. The Chairman gave his apologies for both full council meetings due to take place in September and October as he would be out of the country.

The meeting closed at 21:37

Appendices:

1. National Trust Update – July 2021
2. Letter sent to Cllr Richard Clewer from the Chairs of KV PC and APC